

# **The Spirit of Cinderella in Soundtrack Lyrics in *Cinderella*(2015)**

## **(A Study on Ideational Meaning)**

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**Abstract.** This research deals with ideational meaning of soundtrack lyrics found through transitivity system. The soundtrack lyrics analyzed in this study come from a film entitled *Cinderella* released in 2015. In addition, the relationship between the ideational meaning and the story of the film is also conveyed. Before the analysis is done, the data were collected through non-participant observation. Then, the data were selected using purposive sampling technique. After that, referential identity and distributional methods, intermediate constituent analysis, and insertion were used to investigate the ideational meaning. As this research to be concerned with showing the meaning of text, the type of this study is descriptive qualitative research. The result shows that there are seven ideational meanings indicating the spirit of Cinderella. Among those ideational meanings, having hope and self-spirit become prominent. In expressing the ideational meaning, the soundtrack lyrics reveal mostly material process then it is followed by mental process, relational process, and behavioural process. Based on the analysis, the spirit of Cinderella in the soundtrack lyrics does not deal with the energy of Cinderella but the obvious actions of Cinderella in reaching her dream. It is not only proven by the process, participant, circumstance, and the ideational meaning but also by certain scenes in the film.

**Keywords:** Systemic Functional Grammar, Ideational Meaning, Cinderella, Soundtrack Lyrics Analysis

## **A. INTRODUCTION**

Soundtrack is a recorded music in film (Macmillan Dictionary). It consists of word combinations with some poetic values made by considering diction, rhyme, aesthetics, and meaning. Based on my experience in watching films, soundtracks usually represent the story of the film. So, a good soundtrack will be identically related to the film and vice versa.

The film entitled *Cinderella* released in 2015 is chosen as the subject of the analysis because the love story of Cinderella is a common thing for people but the spirit of Cinderella in the soundtrack lyrics is a new thing to discuss, both the story of the film and the soundtrack lyrics has good values teaching us to be hard-working, to have high spirit in life, to keep an endless love, and to take a lesson for being rude.

The reason why I choose SFG as the theory to analyze the soundtrack lyrics of *Cinderella* (2015) is that I aim to identify the ideational meanings focusing on the spirit of

Cinderella in the soundtrack lyrics. To reveal the ideational meaning, transitivity system is used since it is a component to show how the experiences express the meaning. In addition, I also present the relation between the meaning of the soundtrack lyrics and the story of the film.

In this research, the writer aims to identify the processes which express the spirit of Cinderella in the soundtrack lyrics, to analyze the ideational meanings which show the spirit of Cinderella in the soundtrack lyrics, and to present the relation between the ideational meaning of the soundtrack lyrics showing the spirit of Cinderella and the participant, process, and circumstance in the story.

## **B. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

### **1. Systemic Functional Grammar**

Before Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG), there are two kinds of grammar that people know: traditional grammar and formal grammar. Traditional grammar focuses on parts of speech such as nouns, verbs, prepositions, adverbs, adjectives while formal grammar focuses on how the structure of a sentence is produced such as the formation of words phrases, and clauses (Gerot and Wignell, 1994: 5). Then SFG appears as the new concept of grammar.

Systemic Functional Grammar is a study of language with the concept of grammar to reveal meaning of a text (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2004: 47). SFG deals with meaning so Halliday and Matthiessen said that “it is a ‘semanticky’ kind of grammar” (2004: 31). The analysis of SFG points on clause as the main element (Fontaine, 2013: 10).

To examine clauses with SFG, Halliday and Matthiessen introduced functions as media to provide meaning called metafunctions (2004: 58). There are four metafunctions by Halliday and Matthiessen: experiential, interpersonal, textual, and logical metafunctions.

### **2. Ideational Meaning**

Experiential meaning or ideational meaning is a function dealing with types of experience in delivering things. In this function, there is transitivity system (process, participant, and circumstance) to show the representation in the clause (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2004: 61).

### **3. Transitivity System**

Transitivity system is an expression of ideational meaning which is related to many options of process and participants (Eggins, 2005: 206). There are processes,

participants, and circumstances as the component of transitivity system. Process explains what is going on (Fontaine, 2013: 20). Participant explains one or more people or things that experience the process (Fontaine, 2013: 20). Then, circumstance is the situation of the process happening (Fontaine, 2013: 79).

There are types of processes, participants, and circumstances. For process, it divided into 6 processes: material, mental, relational, behavioural, verbal, and existential process. Then, there are participants called actor, goal, sensor, sayers, beneficiary, initiator, attributor, assigner, inducer, etc. For circumstances, there are extent, location, manner, matter, cause, accompaniment, etc.

### C. RESEARCH METHOD

The type of this research is qualitative descriptive research. So, this research does not deal with number but the detail explanation, analysis, and classification of the language to get the meaning of it.

The data population of this research is all clauses in soundtrack lyrics of *Cinderella* (2015) entitled *Strong* and *A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes*. Then, the clauses are selected by purposive sampling technique.

In collecting the data, the method used is *Simak Bebas Libat Cakap* by Sudaryanto (1993). Then, the data is analyzed by using referential identity and distributional methods.

### D. ANALYSIS

Based on the result of the analysis, there are 7 (seven) kinds of ideational meaning found in the soundtrack lyrics that represent the spirit of Cinderella: optimistic mind, having belief, struggling, having hope, self-spirit, keep dreaming, and being kind-hearted. Those ideational meanings are presented by material process, mental process, behavioural process. These tables show the percentage of the process and the ideational meaning.

Table 1.

Process	Strong	A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes	Total
Material	54%	53%	53.5%
Mental	23%	25%	24.0%
Relational	23%	13%	17.0%
Behavioural	-	9%	5.5%
	100%	100%	100%

Table 2.

Ideational Meaning	Strong	A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes	Total
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Optimistic Mind	23%	12%	17%
Having Belief	4%	7%	6%
Struggling	11%	19%	15%
Having Hope	8%	38%	23%
Self-Spirit	35%	12%	23%
Keep Dreaming	4%	12%	10%
Being Kind-hearted	15%	-	6%
	100%	100%	100%

From Table 1, the most dominant process representing the ideational meaning of the soundtrack lyrics is material process (53.5%) followed by mental process (24.0%), relational process (17.0%), and behavioural process (5.5%). The use of material process defines that the spirit of Cinderella is presented in her actions to reach her goal. Meanwhile, Table 2 presents that having hope and self-spirit are ideational meanings with the highest percentage (23%), followed by optimistic mind, struggling, keep dreaming, having belief, and being kind-hearted. It implies that the soundtrack lyrics present what Cinderella hopes and what Cinderella has done for herself in showing the spirit of Cinderella.

#### 1. Optimistic Mind

Optimistic mind is one of strong components in showing the spirit of someone to get what she wants. In this case, the optimistic mind of Cinderella in the soundtrack lyrics shows that the positive mind will possibly lead the step of Cinderella to reach happiness. This ideational meaning appears nine times both in *Strong* and *A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes*. The optimistic mind of Cinderella can be seen in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> line of *Strong*.

Sample 1. Optimistic Mind 1

11	I	believe in	you and in me
optimistic mind	senser	mental: cognition	phenomenon

In the 11<sup>th</sup> line, the optimism is expressed by mental process. It relates to the mental especially in cognition type because it relates to what is in Cinderella's mind and what she trusts. For the participants, there are two interpretations. First, the participants can be the singer and the listener and second, the participants can be Cinderella and the other characters. For the first interpretation, the senser *I* is the singer and the phenomenon *you and me* is the singer and the listeners. It means that the singer trusts what she can do to get something then so do the listeners. If it is related to the film, the senser *I* means Cinderella and the phenomenon *you and me* can

be interpreted as Cinderella and another character. It means that Cinderella trusts her partner to reach happiness.

The relationship between this line and the story of the film occurs precisely at the conversation between Cinderella and her mother at her childhood. Both of them believed in fairy godmother that would help Cinderella someday. They also believed that they could communicate with other living creatures such as animals. In fact, their belief in the fairy godmother and the animals was true because when Cinderella needed help to go to the ball, the fairy godmother and the animals helped her with some magic.

## 2. Having Belief

Having belief can be a key as the spirit because what people believe is sometimes what they will do. Here, having belief is considered as one of ideational meanings in the soundtrack lyrics of *Cinderella* because some lines of the lyrics represent what Cinderella believes in her life and her believes help her to reach her goal which is happiness. It occurs in the first line of *Strong* and 33<sup>rd</sup> line of *A Dream Is A Wish Your Heart Makes*.

Sample 15. Having Belief 1

1	in a perfect story book	the world	is	brave and good
having belief	circ: place	carrier	attributive: intensive	attribute

The very first line in the first song is a clue of the song because it is the beginning. This first line expresses having belief by using relational process especially attributive intensive process. This process deals with the explanation which gives character or attribute to the participant. It means that the interpretation of belief is provided in this line. The place circumstance is the beginning which explains the carrier. It is *in a perfect story book*. The place circumstance tells the position of the carrier which is only in a story book or unreal. This line has *the world* as the carrier. The carrier is the participant which is given a character or attribute. *The world* here is the fake world because it happens only in a story book explained by the circumstance. The attributive intensive process is shown by the verb *is* which is a present be verb. It means that this line is a common fact. The attribute given to the carrier is *brave and good*. *Brave and good* are adjectives and adjective has function to modify noun.

So, the definition of the carrier is explained by the adjectives. The adjectives are positive so that it can be understood that a fake life is good. It is different from the 4<sup>th</sup> line which shows the definition of a real life with its pain. In the film, this line describes Cinderella who liked reading books with happy ending. Cinderella believed and loved happy ending although her life is full of struggles. She had the belief with her all the time so that one day she could make it.

### 3. Struggling

Struggling is one of Cinderella's spirits which is shown in painful way. Cinderella can manage to get her happiness through suffering. The soundtrack lyrics also catch the suffering of Cinderella in many ways. In the soundtracks, it appears eight times. Here, the 4<sup>th</sup> line in *A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes*.

Sample 8. Struggling 1

4	but	life	's	a different game the sorrow and the pain
struggling		carrier	attributive: intensive	attribute

The 4<sup>th</sup> line clearly represents the real life of Cinderella. This line is an opposite from the 1<sup>st</sup> line in *a perfect story book, the life is brave and good*. It shows the reality of life by using relational process because the definition of the real life is more extended through attributive intensive. The participants are the carrier *life* which refers to Cinderella's life and the attribute *a different game the sorrow and the pain* which explains the definition of life as an uncommon game with sad story behind it. The verb 's defines the carrier because the process is attributive intensive and this process functions to give explanation through the attribute.

This line tells about the life of poor Cinderella with her struggles in general so that it comes to the ideational meaning named struggling. The sorrow and the pain of Cinderella began when her mother passed away when she was kid. Her childhood was passed without her mother's love though she got all that she needed from her father. After that, when she was teenager, her father told her that he wanted to marry again with Lady Tremaine. At that time, Cinderella was shocked but she accepted her father's willing because she did not want to see her father sad. She did not know that the marriage brought her to the harder life. Her stepmother and stepsisters treated her despicably.

Yet, it was getting bad when her father passed away on the way home from his trip. Cinderella became a servant in her own house. These sufferings describe the attribute in this line. It is all about the sorrow and the pain of Cinderella.

#### 4. Having Hope

Having hope appears a lot to represent the spirit of Cinderella in the soundtrack lyrics. Because many people start their success through hope, having hope becomes one of points in presenting the spirit. There are twelve lines with having hope as the ideational meaning. There are in second and third line in *Strong* and ten more in *A Dream Is A Wish Your Heart Makes*. It is quite dominant because the spirit of Cinderella comes up through her hopes such as in the 2<sup>nd</sup> line.

Sample 4. Having Hope 1

2	a hero	takes	your hand
having hope	actor	material	goal

The second line uses material process to show having hope and there is another participant involved to do the action. The actor *a hero* means a savior in a bad situation. In the film, it is represented by the fairy godmother that helped Cinderella to reach her dream. The verb *takes* represents the action of doing something usually by using hands. From the story of the film, the action of the fairy godmother such as making magic for Cinderella is considered. Then, the goal *your hand* clearly talks about the object that experiences the action which is done by the actor. Cinderella is the only one who was helped by fairy godmother.

So, having hope in this line is described through the helpful action of the hero or fairy godmother as a hope for Cinderella. However, there is another character who becomes a savior for Cinderella. He is the king. The king saved Cinderella from her cruel stepmother and stepsisters by marrying her and bringing her to live at the palace with him. It means that he helped to take the pain of Cinderella away.

#### 5. Self-Spirit

Self-spirit is a part of the spirit of Cinderella that is important. It expresses the spirit which originally exists in someone itself. This kind of spirit makes someone can face any sufferings. Self-spirit appears in the soundtrack lyrics of the film to represent the self-spirit in the main character in facing her sufferings. This ideational meaning can

be found in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> line of *Strong* and the 40<sup>th</sup> line of *A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes*.

Sample 12. Self-Spirit 1

5	only you	can change	your world	tomorrow
self-spirit	actor	material	goal	circ: time

The 5<sup>th</sup> line uses material process to describe the self-spirit. It is used to show the action of someone when her self-spirit is applied. This line does not have the actual meaning because there is a figure of speech there. The participant clearly states the ideational meaning of self-spirit because the actor *only you* shows someone's own spirit and only her spirit..

The material process here is uttered by using *change* which means creating something differently. The difference making by the actor must be a better action in a goal. The goal *your world* is not literal because it can be understood as something which happens in her life. The possessive pronoun *your* again shows that the action done by the actor has impacts to her own life. This is how the self-spirit expressed in this line. There is a time circumstance *tomorrow* which shows the time when she can make the change. Tomorrow means the day after today so she has a spirit in her life that today is good but the day after today is better and it is going to be better because of her efforts herself.

This line is proven as the representing of the film when Cinderella was sure to marry Kit and left her stepfamily because she chose to be happy and her life must change. The happiness does not come right after when she wants it but she must wait for days to realize her dream and the time is represented through the time circumstance. If Cinderella's self-spirit is not applied, she will forever be the household in her own house for her stepfamily.

#### 6. Keep Dreaming

This ideational meaning is a part of the spirit but it is more about something beautiful. Dream is a lovely thing usually happening in our sleep. It is also known as an idea of hoping something but lower because hope normally has a goal to be realized but dream is not always achieved. Yet, the dream can still be the spirit of someone to do something. It happens when someone has a significant dream to reach. It is shown in 13<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> lines.



### Sample 17. Keep Dreaming 1

13	a moment	you	can shine	and	wear	your own crown
keep dreaming	circ: time	actor	material		material	goal

In the 13<sup>th</sup> line, keep dreaming is expressed by material process. The material process represents the action in the dream. This line starts with time circumstance *a moment* which is as same as someday. So, it may or may not happen. The actor here is *you*. The material process is shown through *shine* and *wear*. *Shine* is an intransitive verb so this verb only happens for the actor. It is a positive action because people love something shiny especially when she herself is the shiny thing. Shining is a part of becoming the attention because being conspicuous is interesting for people.

The second verb *wear* is a transitive verb so it needs goal. The goal is *your own crown*. The goal has a meaning of wealth and prosperity because crown is normally used by king or queen who has enough power to do everything. This line then tells that the actor has a dream that someday she will get attention from people and will be happy and prosperous. This line describes the scene when Cinderella unconsciously dreamed herself dancing with Kit after she went home. She dreamed to be as happy as she was at the palace.

### 7. Being Kind-hearted

This ideational meaning is the reflection of doing something good to reach the goal because sometimes people only think about the result without deal with the process. It makes people do anything to get what they want. Yet, it does not happen in the soundtrack lyrics of *Cinderella* which teach us that kindness is one of the spirits in life. This ideational meaning proves that through being kind we still can be on the top. It is proven in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> lines of the first soundtrack.

### Sample 19. Being Kind-Hearted 1

6	let	your smile	light up	the sky
be kind-hearted	material	actor	material	goal

In the 6<sup>th</sup> line, this ideational meaning is shown by material process. The participant is the actor and the goal. The first material process has no actor because it is hidden. The hidden actor is *you* and it represents the listener or Cinderella. The verb *let* becomes the material process to tell about something released. The second actor is *your smile*. It is a positive actor because smile usually reflects happiness or kindness

and it is good. The actor does *light up* which means making something bright. The goal *the sky* is the impact from the material. This goal is a very high thing. It can be interpreted as unlimited.

So, this line can be understood that the actor releases happiness and kindness to make something bright unlimitedly. This line can be seen in the film when Cinderella always smiled and be kind to her stepmother and stepsisters. Moreover, she also smiled when she met her ex household at the market. She then told her ex household that she was good and had an obligation to keep her house how hard it was because it was the only thing left by her parents for her.

## **E. CONCLUSION**

Having done in analyzing the soundtracks of Cinderella (2015); *Strong* and *A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes*, the writer found some findings. The process and the ideational meaning in the soundtrack lyrics have the same purpose as the story of the film. The transitivity system proves that the spirit of Cinderella is mostly represented through material process since the soundtrack lyrics talk about the action of Cinderella. Her imagination is also expressed through what she will do to reach her goal. Then, the ideational meanings shown in the soundtrack lyrics by transitivity system are optimistic mind, having belief, struggling, having hope, self-spirit, keep dreaming, and being kind-hearted. Those seven ideational meanings are proven by certain scenes in the films. Yet, having hope and self-spirit appear as the most ideational meanings in the soundtrack lyrics.

So, the spirit of Cinderella in the soundtrack lyrics is not focused on the enthusiasm of Cinderella inside but is more about the realization of what she hopes and what she wants to do in making her dream come true.

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